

[Transcript] SmartLess / "AOC: LIVE in Brooklyn"

Hey, listener, and welcome to SmartList.
Before we get into this incredible episode,
I want just a moment of your time
to set the stage a little bit.
Sean and Jason and I went on a SmartList tour last year
where we recorded 10 episodes live
in front of thousands of our biggest fans
from Brooklyn to Los Angeles, and guess what?
Right now, there are more live episodes
from our tour on Wondry Plus that you can listen to.
You can listen to these episodes four weeks early
and add free on Wondry Plus,
after which you can hear them for free
wherever you get your podcast.
Find Wondry Plus in the Wondry app or on Apple Podcasts.
All right, welcome to SmartList.
Wait, wait, wait, is the announcement over?
You know it?
No, I don't.
Oh, did he finish?
Yeah, he finished.
Okay, great.
Got me the biggest start.
It's a 10 o'clock show, 10 o'clock show, 10 o'clock show.
10 o'clock show, 10 o'clock show, 10 o'clock show, 10 o'clock show.
Do we remember what city we're in?
Do we remember what city we're in?
Brooklyn, we're in Brooklyn, we're in New York City.
New York City, 10 o'clock show.
People might be a little tight-tongued,
so that's a good energy.
Energy, vocal exercises.
Vocal exercises.
Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh.
Eye contact, eye contact.
Eye contact, eye contact.
Eye contact, eye contact.
What is the name of the show we're doing?
Well, the show is SmartList.
SmartList.
SmartList.
So this is bananas for us.
Yeah.
And so to be out here in front of you guys truly,

it is super humbling for us.
Yeah.
Thank you, thank you, thank you.
Yeah, yeah.
Thank you.
We're going to switch.
I'm sitting over there?
Yeah.
I'm sitting there.
Where do you want to sit?
I'm going to sit down.
I sit in the middle.
Because you guys are seated.
Because tonight's my guest.
So I get the couch.
Why is that good news?
You don't know.
Yeah, why is that good news?
Yeah, why is that?
I feel like, yeah.
Jason!
But I'm telling you, it's a good guest.
This is our last show here in Brooklyn.
Yes.
And I know, we're bummed to leave.
Believe me.
But wait, hang on, what are you guys doing tomorrow?
Yeah, that's a good point.
We'll do like a little matinee.
Yeah, yeah, yeah.
Oh, we should have done that.
Everyone's got to rest tomorrow.
You've got to go to church.
You've got to go to...
Whatever I do.
Yeah.
I like to talk about things that we go through on tour
because we've never been on tour before.
And one of the things is like touring and traveling.
We stay in the same room, which is true.
The same suite.
Yeah, we're staying in the same hotel room.
Yeah, so by so far, everyone we've
been to, every city we've been to, out of the three rooms,

I've gotten the handicapped room.

Yeah.

And so...

By the way, true story.

True story.

It's just crazy luck.

So the shower is level with the floor,

and it's a hand thing.

I'm like, what?

Like, it's no shower head.

Which is fine.

It's just right, yeah.

He's yet to complain.

Yeah.

I saved it for here.

Right.

Yeah, so I can complain.

Why do you want to do it in front of all these thousands of people just to make us feel bad?

Well, here's the other thing that I didn't talk about, which is, I don't know how you guys feel, but like...

Oh, get real.

No, like, when you go out to eat at a restaurant, and you order, oh, first of all, the waiter comes around and he's like, would you like bottled water or tap water or whatever?

And if I go, I'll have bottled water.

And everybody else will be like, hey, it's great.

And then he brings a glass for every single person.

Right.

And you're like, I'm not selfish, but I'm like...

There goes my bottle.

There goes my bottle of water to everybody else.

What part of that bothers you?

I want to get down.

Well, just whatever you want.

You order that drink, but know that it was the thing I ordered.

OK, I know.

But is it the money?

No, it's not the money.

It's not the money.

But here's the thing that's even worse.

If I order dessert, and these guys know, I love dessert.

Angel loves a sweet.

Yeah.

If it's the same thing with those...

So you know, like, when you're like, OK, does anybody...

And everybody's like, nah, no dessert for me.

Nah, nothing for me.

And I was like, I'll have the chocolate cake,
the oozing chocolate cake with the vanilla ice cream.

Great.

And then the waiter comes around, plate and a spoon.

Plate and a spoon.

Plate and a spoon.

Plate and a spoon.

And I was like, well, now I'm an asshole if I don't share.

And I look like a kid, like I don't want to share my food.

But then, you know, you can't win.

I...

And by the way, the point is, the point is that's happened
when the cookies came the other day.

And you're like, look, there's cookies.

And this one's like, I don't want any.

Let me have one.

So...

Right.

And the cookies were next to...

Eight plates of food.

OK.

This one.

So let's just get something clear.

So if you've listened to the podcast,
you know that Jason has a very dangerous relationship with food.

No, I just don't eat like...

I don't eat like King Arthur.

No.

No, but you don't need to talk about it all the time.

And I can't wait.

I just find it fascinating.

And I'm going to pay for your whatever, your psychiatrist,
when they deal with this, because it's so fucked up.

And we live in a world where everybody's always talking about food
and it's gluten-free and the thing and the thing
and how many calories.

Who fucking cares?

Yes, you want to know what happens when I eat gluten?

It's a disaster.

It's a disaster.
So close to tears.
Look at him.
So I get some food for lunch and then...
But like, you say what you ordered.
OK, so I ordered a burger and a steak.
Keep going.
That's true.
That's true.
To split.
No, no.
You ordered a hamburger and a steak and a bowl of cream corn
something and a salad.
And blueberry pancakes.
And blueberry pancakes.
No, that was a different...
It's not even the same meal.
That was a different...
No, that was a different meal.
And then these chocolate chip cookies, they said fresh.
Like, yeah, who's not going to get that?
Listen, you don't want to be rude, right?
I don't want to be rude.
Anyway, he's shamed.
He tried to shame me, which put me on the attack.
I will admit to that.
And then out of spite, he decided to eat it all.
Yeah.
And he's like, yeah, but then you ate some of it.
I had a corner of a cookie just to release the valve.
You know?
I mean, you start to look at something,
and then if you build up this...
But I honestly can't believe we're in Brooklyn
we're talking about this as well.
I know.
But you are the king, Jason.
You are the king of nothing from me.
What do you got there?
Yeah.
Right.
And Sean, on the other hand, he will go to people's houses
and bring McDonald's with him.
Absolutely.

Oh.

Sean, show him your trick if you're constipated.

I just do this.

Get up.

I do this.

This works, guys.

And then seven times and things start to come out.

So he held it at three there.

It's a whole thing, guys.

You don't want to share a room with these two, ever.

And food, it's tricky for you, because also you
get real snacky at night now.

Yeah.

Well, listen.

Well, let's go ahead.

You got me.

She heard it.

Gummy's.

Guys, it's legal.

It's legal now.

Yeah.

I mean, why do I have to hide that?

No, you don't.

You guess what?

It's like going down to the corner and buying a six-year beer.

There are more dispensaries in California than Starbucks.

Yeah, it's true.

Yeah.

Yet I still will not tell my kids that Daddy enjoys a gummy.

But don't tell them.

But it's mostly for the CBD.

Sure, sure.

It's inflammation and whatnot.

Yeah, sure.

Inflammation.

What's amazing is people used to get, like, I feel like when we were going up, people
get high.

Like, at my age, you get high and you watch, like, the song remains the same, Led Zeppelin
or you'd.

They know what it is.

Yeah.

And then like.

Yeah.

But like, Jason takes a gummy and watches MSNBC and took that.

No.

Wait a minute.

I love it.

There's something so super weird and sad about that.

I got a focus.

But Jay got me on them and they really work and they're very healthy and the only thing is.

Stevia Sweet and gummies.

Yeah.

Oh.

And he will, the only time, the only time I will find golf interesting is he will put it on.

And I'm like, what is this?

Blop.

10 minutes later, I'm like, this is amazing.

It's legal here.

Yes?

Yeah.

It's like, let's get on with it.

What's crazy is how much about, like, our eating habits and stuff.

They obviously know from listening to the podcast.

And so.

What else are we going to talk about?

I don't know.

We're not journalists.

No.

We're not smart.

No.

We're just people that eat and sleep like everyone else.

I know.

It's so true.

It's so boring.

Well, again, we do want to say thank you for allowing this to happen in that you guys.

And that you listen to the podcast at all for us.

Yeah.

For us, it was such a goof to do it.

And then to be able to do this, it's such an incredible thrill.

So we're really excited to be here with you guys tonight.

Thank you guys.

Very excited.

Very excited.

So speaking of smart, which we are not, ergo smart.

Sure.

Right?

So we're excited to, we decide to, every once in a while, invite somebody really, really smart.

Yeah.

Okay.

Most of the time, they're just our fancy, famous friends that are an easy booking for us because they're there having gummies and watching NBC with us.

But tonight, folks, dash stuff.

I need to write my intros because I'm, I'm not smart nor young.

Um, uh, listen, stuff's been a challenge for the last few years, but there are heroes out there that are working tirelessly to try to make it better.

We got one of them here tonight.

She's one of yours, New York.

She's born in the Bronx, educated in Boston, lives a lot in DC.

And in fact, at 29, she was the youngest elected ever to the Congress.

Guys, welcome.

Alexander Acosta, a torturist.

Oh my God, oh my God.

Oh my God.

Oh my God.

Oh my God.

Oh my God.

Oh my God.

Oh my God.

Oh my God.

Oh my God.

I love you.

Oh my God.

Oh my God.

Thank you so much, guys.

Thank you so much.

This is you.

This is you right there.

My goodness.

Hi, everyone.

You come on in.

You can come on in.

Thank you.

Wow.

Wow.

Hi, goodness. Hi, everyone.

You guys are the hero. Oh, my gosh.

Oh, my gosh.

That was so good.

Right? I mean, see, this kind of stuff blows our mind.

Here we are, just three ding-dongs.
This is crazy.
You came to talk about golf with us?
Yes. I wish you brought on somebody with opinions.
Right. Golf.
We're gonna get him tonight.
We're gonna get him out of her.
I got questions and stuff like that.
Well, first of all, are you currently in town
or do you come up for this?
Or how often do you get to live in your home city
versus living in D.C.?
So this is one of the most common questions I get asked.
It depends on the year.
Off to a great start.
Tell me about your digs in D.C.
Do you guys all have to stay in the same kind of place?
Is it like dormitories?
Do you get a budget for an apartment?
For an apartment?
Okay, so if you're a normal person...
See, guys, I'm gonna ask shit you.
Never even thought to ask a congressman.
Do you take the express train to D.C.?
I don't know. It's gonna be better.
Are you on a gummy?
I don't know.
But are you?
It's like semi-legal in New York.
Got it.
Is it really only semi-legal?
Yeah, it's decriminalized.
What does that mean?
Yes, it's medically legal
and it's like on the way to becoming.
So wait, but so you can buy it legally
if you smoke it, it's illegal?
No, no, you can own it.
Can you use it?
You can use it.
It's decriminalized, but decriminalized...
You can't buy it in a shop yet.
Oh, right.
But we're on our way.

You can buy it in an alley.
Yeah, yeah, yeah.
Or a park.
Or a park.
Okay, so your place in D.C.,
do you get a budget for housing
or you've got to spend that yourself?
No, this is...
I want to know, too.
I have 10,000 questions I could ask you
because I'm the dumbest person.
The detail, like, it is crazy.
It's really interesting because most people
who get elected to Congress
are independently wealthy before they run.
I want to get into that, too.
So if you're a normal person
and you get elected,
there's no housing allowance,
so you have to pay two rents.
And...
Your place at home and your place in D.C.
Yeah, or, like, when I got elected,
my job right before,
was I was bartending, and there's...
What was a bar? Shout-out, too?
Shout-out to the Taco Shop
on Union Square, which is still there.
Really?
Hey, some people know it!
So you have to pay for two places,
and you're doing it...
When you go there, you're doing it
on a bartender's salary
with the last salary you...
Yeah, so basically, there's kind of this weird period
where after you get elected,
your first paycheck comes...
Congress, you get paycheck monthly, okay?
You get paid once a month.
And so your first paycheck comes
at the end of your first month in Congress.
So, like, how do you
tide yourself over?

Yeah, like, these are things that...
And a lot of your colleagues, like, don't have to think about it.
Right.
So they're, like, these interesting little challenges.
And are you...
But I rent. I rent in New York and in D.C.
I'm a tenant, okay?
And you're not allowed to take money
from constituents
to help you out.
I think I'm putting in terms of, like,
college athletes and stuff.
Like, you can't take money from sponsors
and alumnus and things like that in Congress.
In theory, you're not.
Exactly. All right.
And do you have to drive yourself?
I drive, yeah.
Or sometimes I'll fly, too.
Or sometimes I'll take the Amtrak,
which is what I do a lot, too.
Now, what about...
Shout out to Amtrak back there.
Good for you.
Now, what about...
And Metro North, too, while we're at it.
Yeah!
I mean,
fuck it.
Um...
All right, so now,
did you want to do this
from an early age?
No.
When you were working with the Bernie Sanders campaign,
you saw some stuff
that you thought, well, maybe that's...
Yeah. Well, you know,
I never thought that I would be elected
to public office.
I also didn't think that
someone like me
or with a background like mine
could really get elected to public office.

And that young, too, at 29,
that's the youngest ever, right?
It's the youngest woman ever.
I mean, you had, like...
Yeah.
I mean, how old were you
when you started to get involved
and you did your first primary or whatever?
You were, like, 27?
I was 27 when I started running.
That's crazy.
27, Sean, you were making millions of dollars a year
You know, like, everybody's got humble beginnings, right, Sean?
Yeah, and by the way,
and still renting.
No, no.
No, you blew through it all.
Oh, I blew through it, yeah.
Wait, I want to know, like,
I don't know how any of...
Like, I'm the, like I said, the dumbest person in the world,
and how...
You're... Nobody disagreed.
I know.
Higher audience.
Nobody...
Now, I'm probably jumping way ahead,
but I just want to get there.
No, please, let's get all over the place.
All we get from the TV and whatever,
wherever we get our news,
whatever you watch or read or whatever...
YouTube!
Is that it's always at a standstill.
Nothing gets accomplished,
and we hear the same thing,
and how long is this going to go on?
When are we going to find somebody or something
or anything that can make us meet in the middle?
I think both sides are sick and tired of it.
Well, I mean,
I think the thing is,
is what we need to take a look at
is that there's a lot

of meeting in the middle.
It's just about the things that we don't like.
So there's a lot of bipartisan consensus
about militarism
and around Wall Street bailouts
and around, you know,
helping out corporations and shorting
the middle and working class.
There's a lot that goes on
that passes that gets done
to advance that.
But isn't newsworthy or something?
If we do hear about it,
we don't like it.
But there's a lot that goes on
that I just don't think...
It's really about, like,
what are we doing to affect people's lives
and to improve people's lives in a way that's felt.
And now, a word from our sponsor.
If your business earns millions
or tens of millions of revenues,
stop what you're doing and take a listen
because NetSuite by Oracle
has just rolled out the best offer
we've ever seen.
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Look, having all
of your information in one place

is kind of the name of the game,
and that's what NetSuite has.
More than 36,000 companies
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providing visibility and control over the
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Smartlist is brought to you in part by
Liquid IV.
So, guys, everybody needs to hydrate, right?
It's so important. It's the worst thing to be
dehydrated. It's not healthy.
You have to hydrate all the time.
I'm doing a show, as you all know, on Broadway,
I sweat like a pig when I'm on stage,
and so I need to rehydrate.
I need to get all my electrolytes
so that I can continue to keep performing, right?
It's just really, really important.
Liquid IV, the number one powdered
hydration brand in America,
is now available in sugar-free.
Years in the making, hydration multiplier
sugar-free uses a proprietary
zero-sugar hydration solution
with no artificial sweeteners.
With three times the electrolytes of the
leading sports drink, plus eight vitamins
and nutrients for everyday wellness,
Liquid IV hydrates two times faster
than water alone.
Keep your daily routine exciting
with three new flavors, white peach,

green grape, and lemon lime.

I kind of like anything grape,
so I really, really like the green grape one.

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And after 17 years,
a kidnapping, and the uncovering
of a secret love triangle,
the truth would finally be revealed.

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so you don't miss out on any of my
new videos.

Thanks for watching.

I'll see you next time.

So then let's say there's a subject
that you would like to
pull one of the Republicans over
and meet in the middle
and have some bipartisan consent on
and then have a piece of legislation.

How does that happen?

Do you call somebody who you think
might be the most pliable on the other side
and say, hey, let's have coffee?

Or do you text?

Or do you text?

Or do you text?
Or do you text?
How does this part work?
Let's meet in the middle.
A little bit of all of it.
Do you say try this gummy
and then let's talk about it?
A little bit of all of it.
Sometimes there are group chats.
Really?
Oh, yeah, that's a thing.
Put me in one.
I just, how bad would you love
to just infiltrate and just start
loving Ron?
Wait a minute.
That's a dick pic.
Yeah.
But sometimes, you know,
the house floor
that you see on C-SPAN
or at the State of the Union,
that's where we go to vote every day.
And so it is kind of like a high school
cafeteria.
When you see you guys talking next to one another,
you're not talking about sports or whatever.
You're saying, hey, I want to talk to you about this.
You're talking about policy and things you're trying to do
and maybe you should make it more like a musical number.
Make it, you know what I mean?
In the cafeteria.
5, 6, 7, 8.
Well, make it Bill!
Okay.
Anyway, any time.
You don't have to ask him twice.
So,
so then it's,
do you have to worry about the texting
being possibly exposed
by somebody?
Like, is there an encrypted chat
thing for congressmen?

I mean, I feel like
some folks,
they'll use,
they use the same things that everybody uses,
you know?
They'll use
they'll either use iMessage,
Signal, WhatsApp,
like whatever it is people use.
Or again, it is like a high school cafeteria
where sometimes you're talking to somebody
and someone will be like, well, you know who you should talk to.
That guy over there.
And it's very
informal in that way.
Is it as rough?
What's that?
The informal part?
I think I do really well there.
I think you would.
Informal, and then you're on group chats.
You know what I mean?
It really is a lot of schmoozing.
A lot of schmoozing, Jason.
What is it? Can I do it?
So,
when people are trying to sort of like
figure out since it's every
two years for Congress,
as opposed to six years Senators,
yes? Okay.
And four years for President, right?
Oh my God.
I'm Canadian and I know that.
It's a constant turn over,
so how do you keep track of who might be
a pliable member of the other side
and the sort of long-winded question
which I'm prone to do
associated with this is
tuck in.
Just lay back.
It's a long question.
Just ask her a simple question

and then let her answer it.
When you got there,
it was so exciting
for a lot of people
for many, many reasons.
Did you find that
you were either really embraced
or not based on all the press
coverage that you got the second you got there?
Was it helpful or hurtful?
In terms of internal dynamics,
it's actually hurtful
because what happens is that
you're sitting right next to a person
and it's a really bizarre experience
because so there's something called
a cloak room. Oh, here we go.
And...
Harry Potter! Yes!
There's a lot of Harry Potter elements.
It's not Harry Potter shit.
But he's right. It does sound dope as hell.
So you have the house floor,
like what you see in the State of the Union,
but there are these rooms attached
to the house floor.
And there is a Democrats cloak room
and there's a Republican cloak room.
And so you go in
through the cloak room
and there's like, you know,
there's rules about being on the house floor.
You can't wear coats
and so you put your...
Chewing gum!
Chewing gum!
Why can't you wear a coat on the center floor?
Or on the house floor?
There's pretty strict dress codes.
Yeah, you can't wear a coat.
Why?
You can't wear a coat.
You can't wear denim.
Until very recently, women could not wear sleeveless dresses.

Yeah, it's just, you know,
it's old school like that.
And so they have these things called
their cloak rooms where back in the day,
kind of, you know, in the 1800s and whatnot,
members of Congress, they would drop their cloaks there.
There used to be chests
where you put it up and you pull out
huge bottles of booze and put the booze
in the thing
before you went on the house floor.
They don't have those anymore.
Booze cubbies.
But that's how it was.
And so that's like this informal
socializing space.
Well, Jimmy Jordan must love
the house floor.
Can guys
go sleeveless?
That's a good question.
Sorry, that's a question from our friend Justin Thoreau.
Asking for a caller
JT from New York.
We get it, man.
Your arms are really good.
All right, now, so again, jumping all over the place.
You talk about the floor
and then the rooms off to the side.
It makes me think about, I want to go to
January 6th for one second.
I have a question about why did
they all leave once they got in?
Is it because they couldn't find
you guys?
There were places where
you guys were shuttled off to.
They were hiding in the cloak room.
Drinking the booze.
Was that because
obviously old Mr.
What's-his-face never called them off.
So they didn't leave because of that.
Did they leave because you guys were properly

stowed away?

Well, the thing that's interesting about the architecture of the capital is that

it's like Harry Potter.

Like Hogwarts.

It's very Byzantine.

It's actually really hard to navigate.

And so they couldn't

find the halls

and the places

that you needed to navigate

to where member offices were.

And so they kind of like

busted in

and they found some of the main

offices like Pelosi's office

and House leadership's offices there.

And so everybody was gone. Everybody was

taken away. Like that, to me,

that's the unsung heroic

story of all this. Because

somebody, and it was probably the

Capitol Police, did great work

of putting everybody away.

And it was like

people like went into Robba Bank

and somebody hid all the money and they were like

well fuck it, I guess let's go home.

There's no money here.

That was a crazy, crazy date.

Oh, was it Will?

Well,

we all remember where we were that day.

Jason, do you remember where you were?

I was with you on the golf course.

Why'd you tea yourself up

with something newly-

Well because you said it was a crazy day.

Like, well we did it.

It's funny that

you talk about it because

and it's funny that you bring it up kind of after

you know discussing relationships with

with members and Republicans
because right before I left,
so
Congress was in session this week and so
right before I left
they literally had the last vote of the week
and
I was just you know filling something out so
most of the
folks were kind of fouled out and
some Republicans,
I mean members of Congress in general
are kind of funny people.
Are they?
Pretty unusual. Are they aware of that?
Yes.
And so the thing that's interesting is like
some Republicans are just like
the reality in front of them
is like completely divorced
from the rhetoric and like
all this other stuff that sometimes they go on TV
and say it's really weird.
And does it feel a little high schoolish
where like you know
there are people there that are
obviously I know
you don't get along with, they don't get along with you
they can go nameless but I mean like
what happens when you pass her in the hallway
you know like I mean
yeah but I mean is it
is it really not so
dissimilar from high school where you either choose
to pretend they're not walking by
or is there
something, is there a snotty
look, is there a snotty
aside, is there ever like
hey you know what let's hang out
this weekend let's like we can fix this
together and you know.
Yeah well I think a lot
of it is like high school

and the reason for it is I think there's just a certain dynamic
when you get like 400 people
in like a similar space
and like they're literal bells
when the votes call the bells ring
it's like
high school in a lot of ways
like just structured that way
so some people really operate that way
High school, yeah, so high school is
is this place
is it up a few floors
why do they call it high
they don't have time but we're gonna
and so some people conduct themselves
that way some people
like actually want to get to know each other
but yeah I mean some
I mean listen
but like a high school if it was
a person X and person Y that everybody
knew they didn't like each other
and then if on Monday
everyone came back to school and the word
got out like oh you know over the weekend they talk
and they're all good it would blow
the high school's mind and everybody
would come back together so I'm just saying I mean
I don't know was you know it
a really cool thing I you know
I know you're willing
what would you say what would you I always
hear this well if you don't like something call your congressman
yeah does that really happen
do you guys have like voicemail that
you know every day it actually
okay it depends on who the member
is some of them don't care
but some of them really really do
especially members
of congress who are in swing seats
they're actually very sensitive
to
the volume of those calls except it has to be

from their constituents so if you're just
calling somebody somewhere else they're like
I don't care what someone from so-and-so
thinks I'm I'm I they're really
resonant with their voters so if
their voters are really upset
and flooding their phones
that's that is something
especially if you're in a tough seat that
does really resonate with
some of them but others they I mean
and senators I don't even
but if you get a call from seven one eight
you're answering yes seven one
eight three four seven
four seven two one twos maybe if you move
nine one seven nine one seven
nine one seven
um so cool
what is it about
something I have not really understood
is a lot of these
folks that are in
positions like yourself could
make a whole hell of a lot more money
back in the private sector
okay um are
and yet to keep their
seat of obviously talking
about a lot of folks on the other side to
keep their seat they have to twist themselves
into these ethical knots
to hold the party line
when you can kind of tell they probably
wouldn't want to like you were saying earlier they say privately
like so why
are they staying there
earning what I think it's
the way senators make
all members of congress make
\$174,000 a year
right and I bet you a lot of those
who are a lot of them very skilled attorneys
could make you know X number of millions

a year so are they really
staying there and holding their job because
they have some
ideology that they're so passionate
about or they are so
altruistic they want to help you know
the public I
don't get the sense that a lot
of them do on the other side I'm sorry
to say and so why are they there
when they could be making all this money
back in their district well a lot of them
still do make a ton of money because there's a lot
of insider trading that goes on in congress
there we go and
okay you're not supposed to
I'm not supposed to like say that
term see she's having some of the
scotch guys we're getting it now
here's what I'm gonna say the spirit
like you know
because technically folks will say
you know technically this is not a crime
technically it's not in spirit
it is like it should not
exist because they're privy to some
information that's coming down the pike and they buy
stock exactly and so
it is legal
as a member of congress it is currently
legal and I've been trying to change this
it as
a member of congress it is currently legal
to I can I
have access to classified briefings
you can get things down the
line and you can buy
stock in individual
companies and it can be
within the purview of
the committee that you sit on I mean
it's bonkers so it should
not be legal and we've been working
to make it illegal and I actually think

the increased public attention
very recently is gonna get
a some traction on this issue knock on
what yeah how is that still there
that's crazy and and so
not only that but a there's
that be there are
there are plenty of members who are
so wealthy
and get elected that
they don't have to like a salary is nothing
to them it's it's really there's
no trade off here
I find the psychology of it very interesting
to because I ask myself the same question
like because the thing is like
it's a real pain in the butt you know you
lose your anonymity there's it can be
grueling people are yelling at you
so if you have so your life
is threatened I mean why
do this because you walk into
a restaurant they're like right this way
and I do think no but
like I think that there
is a psychology to that
where there's a certain
kind of power and influence that
money can't buy and there's
like a prestige
that I think money can't buy that is
part of the psychology of some people not
not everybody there are
legitimately
plenty of members of congress are just
salt of the earth incredible
amazing human beings Jamie Raskin
Mark Takan love Jamie Raskin
like wow
amazing so you know it's not everybody
but they're
absolutely is that
that out to it so you're spending
99% of your time being

super duper smart being
incredibly generous with
your time and your occupation
and everything what do you do to be
dumbass what what is like
are you watching below
deck are you
are you chewing
gummies like
crazy what do you do
what do you do to be stupid okay
so I you know because work
is so crazy and and like
emotional etc I
have to watch like
dumb television yeah what's
your favorite dumb please say Ozark
when you say that
you know
like
fun funny stuff
and I play you know Murderville
though is a new show
I'm actually excited about
that no I legitimately
I saw the first commercial for like a
day or two ago and I'm like oh this looks
really funny that shows rad no by the way
seriously watch Murderville
very good don't watch it
streaming on Netflix right now it's not
a big deal really
really good it is good
it is good thank you you see the way
I take the high road I know yeah
um so she's
gonna answer what her favorite dumb show
is okay
um oh man well I
don't know I mean I've I've watched like
covid
selling sunset was one of
us selling
selling sunset I also play

video games
PC games so
League of Legends
nice like yeah no one
knows what that is um
and we will be right back
he's a suave billionaire owner
of the Dallas Mavericks and the
sharkest shark on Shark Tank yes I'm talking
about Mr. Business himself Mark Cuban
and our smart list interview with him is
available now four weeks early on Wondery
Plus Mark unravels the secrets behind
the phenomenal success and recounts the
moment when he became a member of
the billionaire club our interview
with Mark Cuban was recorded live in Chicago
in front of thousands of our biggest fans from
our smart list tour this is the seventh
of ten interviews with new episodes
releasing every Thursday we're talking with
celebrities and icons like the great will
Farrell Conan O'Brien Kevin Hart Jimmy Kimmel
and so many more and it wouldn't be smart
list if Scotty and I didn't take the opportunity
to pitch Mark Cuban our new idea
will we land a deal of a lifetime you'll
have to listen to find out we call that a
business you can listen to these episodes
four weeks early and add free with
Wondery Plus find Wondery Plus in the
Wondery app or on Apple podcasts
and now back to the show
sometimes I like to
watch great
comedies one of my favorite
is a film they made a few
of that one of my
friends a mutual friend of ours
is in
and this guy
who is in one of my favorite
comedy movies comedy trilogies
it's not him

oh wait
but what's Duncan anyway
it is him
ladies and gentlemen our friend
wanted to say hi and we're only
in town to do this
friendly Cooper
all right
get in
sit out
sit out
sit out
sit it down
oh my god
alright so
so
so I have to fix the light
alright thank you very much
his mood is
so
by the way
no idea
did you know
settle
no I saw
that was perfect
oh my god
it works
testing my work
okay
so Bradley
Bradley called
and he said
he said I hear
he said
I hear you guys are coming to town
let's all hang out because
we're all the four of us are very
good friends
we're only in town for a few minutes
he said let me come by and say hi
before the show and I said well no
they're gonna know the guest
so please come out and say hi

wow
I just
I just want to say one thing
and then I'll leave
you're not going anywhere
you're not going anywhere
I've known all of these people
like I met Will in 1998
and then I met
I met Sean through alias
in like 2000 and then I met
and these guys have all been
gunslingers for 20 years
you'd always say like who's the quickest guy in the room
Jason Bateman who's the funniest guy in the world
Will Arnett who's the funniest guy ever Sean Hayes
so I've been you
for 20 years
I've been you for 20 so it's so
unbelievable that
they're sharing their skill set with you
how lucky are we
it's just the truth man
Will and I lived together in Venice, California
and it was like I used to watch this
every day it's like
well hang on let's get into that
pardon us
you're going to find this interesting
so listen
tell us about you two living together in Venice
what was that all about
so Bradley
lived in the back of this property
he lived in the back house
we were 10 we were very young
we I mean I play
38 now so
through the math
the most
23
I remember the first time I met him
was at your place at your apartment
playing cards at your apartment

and that's when you lived in the back
and I was like you were like me and my friend Bradley
and you answered the door with boxers and I was like hello
and I was like
but that's how you always answer the door
right hello
and so Bradley lived in
we had this building in the back and we had our friends
we lived with Ron Rifkin
and Ron Rifkin
and then Bradley and I shared this building
in the back and our doors were connected
we're open and we overlooked
there's a property we overlooked at
Dennis Hopper's house
and we used to see him sometimes in the alley
that's right
driving that old Jaguar and then
it was California man
come on
and then we were doing
on the same lot that you were doing
kitchen confidential
but the other thing is like
we've all been through it together
that's really the thing
we were started out, we used to talk about our dreams
and when we ever be able to fulfill them
and he and I, it's actually very emotional
we were backstage just thinking
if you just take the time
and you work hard it can happen
it is possible
and the best part about it though
is when you do it with people you love
and that was just so gratifying
Bradley's thinking this story
100%
Bradley's thinking this story
he was at my house
years and years ago and he's like
hey I got called to do this musical on Broadway
will you play through the songs for me
and I was like sure what are you doing a musical on Broadway for

he's like I don't know, you got 18 movies coming out
he's like I don't know if any of them will work
blah blah blah
so we're working on this stuff and he's singing
and I'm like this is great, we ate lunch and everything
and then like a month later the hangover came out
I'm like you're such an asshole
yeah
yeah it's funny
you know because we do get to do like
this is so bizarre that we're doing this in this way
but it is all about those
we were talking backstage about remembering
where you came from and how hard it was
and all that kind of stuff
and Bradley he directed
A Star is Born
incredible
and we were in Vegas and Bradley was unveiling
the trailer and I was on stage
and I got to introduce him
he was the emcee for all of the Warner Brothers media
which is the hardest job
and Bradley came out and we did this thing
and he played this trailer
we sat there with this crowd
not unlike this and we sat at the edge of the stage
and this trailer played
it was emotional man
it was really wild and it's so great to be able to do that
with people you love
well I can only imagine
and that's how a bill becomes a law
yeah
I can only imagine
how fulfilling
how much deeper
and gratifying it is
to be able to celebrate a friend's victory
when you know
what they went through to get that
you're not meeting someone at the peak
when you've met someone
when they were just

at their lowest sometimes
I'm glad you mentioned Teen Wolf 2 because
I took a lot of guts
Will
she never said that
she didn't say it
I auditioned twice for that movie
I got a callback
Sean turned it down twice
who are some of your gal pals
in DC
like we were coming up
that you're now pals with
you guys are coming up
as young politicians that you hope to
grow old with there
I want to know that answer
and then who's your favorite Republican
okay okay
I like that question
so
I mean of course there's Ayanna Press
Lee, Rashida Tsleid
like just absolutely incredible
but also
a lot of my friends
from when I was working in
restaurants and bartending
downtown
like those are
my ride or die as well
and
those are still the people around me that are
most
important people to me
if you were going to go out in DC and really release the valve
because it was a tough week
who's the first call
okay
release the valve
I had some addiction problems
guys
so I think
another congressman from New York

Mondair Jones
he's really fun
you know there's just
there's just a lot of folks who are
what would be the most likely to give you a high five
high five
I bet it's a Republican
yeah I think Republicans
because Mitch McConnell seems
super easy
he does seem like a fun guy
yeah yeah
so as far as Republicans go
high fivers Tim Burchett of Tennessee
he's a high fiver
there's some folks who are
who's the hugger
oh hugger
I'm a hugger
you're allowed to though
I always you know make sure I do the
vibe check before a hug
Bradley would you could you ever run for office
yes come on come on
no
it's funny you say that because
I was going to maybe say that we had a chance to talk but
what you've decided to do
really what you've decided to do with your life
is the most selfless thing one can do
you know everybody talks about
how much we believe in something
and we talk to our friends who will agree with us
but to get out there
and say I'm going to sacrifice my life
my privacy
my well-being potentially
for what I believe in the greater good of all of our
in our country it's like
that's it
so
having said that what are your favorite
movies
I have to say to that

and start with his
all the way around
and feel free to come back around
and get the favorite movies
start here to move
I have to say though
we kicked off this whole tour in DC
and you know
again I but yeah
and you know I went there once
with my husband Scotty we just were there so super fast
we didn't get to see anything but this trip with these guys
we actually walked around
and we got those little bird bikes
that we drove around like idiots
scooters not bikes
scooters scooters scooters
and so you know again
I was just like wow I was so humbled to be
I'm sure everybody says this but just not being there
not visiting and not knowing anything about it
is like wow there's so much history
and so much respect once you go there and see it
and experience it
it's just incredible
Sean kept going he kept going
this is where they make the laws
this is where they make
and he's like literally they make the laws there
they make the laws
right they make
guys we're like yeah we know man
I'm like this
totally true story
you'll see it in the dock
and I literally was like oh look at that and then a wall
no I just wanted
could you ever run for office? look at me of course
by the way
I'm sadly
by the way I saw
I've been alive now for I don't know
five or six presidents and one particular president
I won't say who it is I saw

win an election I was like if that guy can win
I literally can win
yeah
yeah yeah
I mean I'd vote for Sean
let's go Sean for president
somebody needs to make
please one of you make hats
that say I'd vote for Sean
I know I'm Canadian
that was so accusatory
I'm both by the way
so suck it
smarty pants over here
oh boy don't get him riled up guys
he's been really well behaved
I could feel it though
rocks to a nice fight over here
what is the one
law that you're working at
or one that you more than anything
that you're passionate about
that you really want to see go through
I mean there's so many
Medicare for all is a big one
I mean
this like
janky healthcare system that we have
in the United States
the fact that we are you know
so called most developed
wealthiest country in the world
and we also have the highest
maternal mortality rate of the developed world
I mean this is ridiculous
it absolutely is embarrassing
and I think COVID also showed a lot of that too
like the whole rest of the world is like
y'all live like that
it's exciting though
when you see something get done
that's immediate either through executive action
or something similar to
speaking of which

how did you get
over a billion dollars
was sent to reimburse
the families of people who lost somebody
during COVID for the funeral costs
like
you were behind that
like that's incredible
and it was done like that
that was really gratifying
and I think it's a perfect example
of
governance and public governance
working the way that it should work
so when COVID first hit
it hit New York City
New York City was one of the first
places that got hit super intensely
and out of all of New York City
and out of the entire country
out of the top 10
most impacted
most hit zip codes in the country by COVID
five of them were in my district
and this was at the
onset of the pandemic when people still didn't even know
what was going on we didn't know
how it spread
we didn't know anything about it
and what we saw was that there was a neighborhood
in
our district in our community
in Elmhurst in East Elmhurst in Queens
and they were saying
this is hitting us really hard
and it's hitting
frontline workers harder
it's hitting
people whose jobs are public
facing food service workers
hospital workers, retail workers
it's hitting us hardest
we can't even afford to bury the people
I don't believe it happened

what?
and I guess probably a lot of people want to know
also
is the baby real
in the hangover sorry this is for Bradley
in the hangover
American sniper
why would you bring that up?
I like both
I didn't have money for the baby
I don't want to tell you
I moved his hand
but you recognize that
you put it up front
and got it done
so folks in our community they said listen
this is like a huge
loss and we're going to need help
and so we took that
I brought it to
the House Democratic Caucus I brought it to the Speaker
I brought it to our Senator Chuck Schumer
to like anyone who was listening
I was like we need to do this
and it took a little while
it wasn't immediate it took a lot of work
but we were able to authorize
in total
\$8 billion
to reimburse any funds
unbelievable
everybody who lost someone to the COVID
it's not means tested
there's no like crazy
there's no income thresholds nothing
this is impacting all of us
we're all in this together we're all going to help each other
no questions asked
we don't want to take any more of your valuable time
you can continue
please the incredible work
that you're doing
thank you for taking a little time out
hanging out with us

ladies and gentlemen
thank you for having me
thank you
thank you
bye bye
thank you
thank you
you guys AOC
AOC
should we
you can go too
you can go too
stay here
we have an announcement to make
SmartList is now four people
come on
I mean
we couldn't make his deal
but he did say he'd stop by
Radley
you could do it
you're very familiar with the show now
I love this show
you've just gotten caught up on all the episodes
of Murderville
of Murderville
you guys
thank you
were you done Angel
I was
talking to
Radley
where are you going
go ahead
it's gotta be good
I wanted to say
about AOC
first of all I can't believe you got her
Jason to come down and chat with us
yeah
I mean
she's a game changer
a one of a kind
like you said in your intro

I got nervous meeting her
because she's super smart
and I didn't want to ask them questions
but I did anyway
but she wasn't judging you
she's doing that back there right now
you think so
she's
we're very like look
whether you agree with her or disagree with her
you know
people as Bradley you said
that are taking their time
and choosing to spend their
like frontline workers
which I think we have some here tonight
yes
I mean
it's like
thank you guys
and you know
we know that we're
a safe distance from smart
and we're just doing
what you guys enjoy listening to
when you're in the middle of doing
stuff that's really important
so
yeah
we do this as a goof
we started this as a goof
and we're so lucky that you guys
listen to us on a weekly basis
and you know
we can have people like our guests
no matter where you fall
on either side
we can all come together
bye
bye
bye
thank you Bradley
come on
Bradley come on

[Transcript] SmartLess / "AOC: LIVE in Brooklyn"

SmartLess is 100% organic
and artisanly handcrafted
by Bennett Barbaco
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and Rob Armjurf